## <u> TTED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900** 

Applicant(s): Boyle et al.

Serial No.:

Continuation of 08/974,186

Filed:

September 16, 1999

For:

Osteoprotegerin

Docket No.:

A-378D5C

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment accompanies the filing of a continuation application under 37 CFR 1.53(d) on September 16, 1999.

## **AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

At p. 1, line 1, insert the following:

-- This application is a continuation of Serial No. 08/974,186, filed November 18, 1997,

which is a divisional of Serial No. 08/577,788, filed December 22, 1995. --

In the claims:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 45-48 in the prior filed application and add the

following new claims:

-- 49. (new) A method of regulating the levels of osteoprotegerin in an animal comprising modifying the animal with a nucleic acid encoding osteoprotegerin.

## **EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"Express Mail" mail labeling number.	EL198792560US	Date of Deposit	September 16, 1999	
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is indicated above and is addressed to B	being deposited with the United States Postal S ox Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Control of Name	ervice *Express Mail Pos or Patents, Washington, (	at Office to Addressee' service und DC 20231. Signature	